

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 02862 082240Z

64

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 /028 W

----- 048233

R 081443Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3789

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 02862

E.O. 11652 : NA

TAGS : OEXC, NI (IDRIS, ALHAJI SHEHU)

SUBJ : IV NOMINATION FOR TRADITIONAL RULER: IDRIS

REF: A. LAGOS 1585 B. STATE 037218

1. POST JUST INFORMED HIS HIGHNESS ALHAJI ISA MUSTAFA UNABLE PARTICIPATE IV PROGRAM THIS FISCAL YEAR; THEREFORE PROPOSE ALTERNATE, ALHAJI SHEHU IDRIS, FOR GRANT,

FULL NOMINATION FOLLOWS:

FULL NAME : HIS HIGHNESS ALHAJI SHEHU IDRIS

PRESENT POSITION: EMIR OF ZARIA, KADUNA STATE

PAST POSITIONS: DISTRICT HEAD, ZARIA CITY 1973-75;
CLERK TO LOCAL AUTHORITY COUNCIL 1964-73;
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NORTHERN REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT 1962-64;
LOCAL AUTHORITY WORKS ACCOUNTANT 1961-62;
PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADMASTER 1958-61

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: 1936; ZARIA, KADUNA STATE

PRESENT CITIZENSHIP : NIGERIAN; NONE PREVIOUS

ACADEMIC TRAINING: INTERMEDIATE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LAGOS 02862 082240Z

CERTIFICATE, AUSTRILIA 1967;

INTERMEDIATE N.T.A., AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY;
KATSINA TRAINING COLLEGE;
GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL, ZARIA

PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO THE US : NONE

PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES: AUSTRALIA 1967; U.K. 1969

PREVIOUS USG GRANT : NONE

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: NONE

PUBLICATIONS : NONE

MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED CHILDREN: 4; 2 BOYS, 2 GIRLS
AGES: 12 TO 2 YEARS

ESCORT SERVICES : YES

VISA ELIGIBILITY : NAMECHECK SATISFACTORY, VISA ELIGIBLE

REASONS FOR NOMINATION: THE EMIR OF ZARIA IS RANKED AS FIRST
CLASS CHIEF, GIVING HIM STATUS
IMMEDIATELY BELOW SULTAN OF SOKOTO, TOP TRADITIONAL RULER OF NORTH.
HE IS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER AND HEAD OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
IN ZARIA DIVISION OF KADUNA STATE WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
TAX COLLECTION, ECONOMIC/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF
LAW AND ORDER FOR SOME ONE MILLION RESIDENTS OF HIS DIVISION. HE
IS HIGHLY ARTICULATE, WELL READ AND PERSONABLE. HE IS HIGHLY VISIBLE
LEADER, EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO CITIZENS OF HIS DIVISION. ACTIVE, WITH
AND INTENSE INTEREST IN IMPROVING SOCIAL/ECONOMIC CONDITION OF HIS
PEOPLE, HE MAKES FREQUENT FIRST HAND INSPECTIONS OF OPERATIONS OF
HIS DIVISION AND IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PEOPLE AS WELL AS
ADMINISTRATORS IN HIS DIVISION AND IN KADUNA STATE. HE IS HIGHLY
RESPECTED PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY AMONG HIS PEERS AS WELL
AS BY MEMBERS OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

OBJECTIVES OF US VISIT: BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION AS EMIR OF ZARIA
AND HIGH RANK AMONG TRADITIONAL RULERS,
ALHAJI SHEHU IDRIS IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LAGOS 02862 082240Z

HE IS A FREQUENT HONORED GUEST AND CHAIRMAN KADUNA STATE
FUNCTIONS AS WELL AS AMONG GATHERINGS OF CHIEFS. HIS COMMENTS
AND ACTIVITIES ARE WELL REPORTED IN THE PRESS AND ONE RADIO AND
TELEVISION. BECAUSE OF HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION, AWARENESS AND
ABILITY TO ARTICULATE HIS VIEWS HE IS AN IDEAL VISITOR TO U.S. WHO
WILL BE ABLE TO CONVEY TO HIS FELLOW NIGERIANS HIS EXPERIENCES
ACCURATELY AND UNDERSTANDINGLY. HE IS ALSO A FINE SPEAKER AND
COULD BE AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE PERSON FOR ENLIGHTENING AMERICAN

GROUPS ABOUT NIGERIA. THE EMIR IS INTERESTED IN SEEING SUCH AMERICAN CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS AS THE U.S. SPACE SATELLITE LAUNCH CENTER IN FLORIDA, THE HOUSTON SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK, THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN WASHINGTON. HE HAS PARTICULAR DESIRE SEE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ACTION (PERHAPS FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA. COUNCIL) AND AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD, THE EMIR WANTS TO CONCENTRATE ON PROJECTS WHERE A VARIETY OF IRRIGATION TECHNIQUES ARE USED AND ON AMERICAN CITRUS FARMS. AS KEY FIGURE IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ZARIA DIVISION, THE EMIR IS IN POSITION TO PUT AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT INTO USE IN HIS DIVISION. HIS INFLUENCE COULD STIMULATE BROAD INTEREST IN KADUNA STATE AND IN NORTHERN NIGERIA IN PURCHASING AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. BY CUSTOM, THE EMIR WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE OF HIS COUNSELORS OR OTHER ATTENDANTS, FOR WHOSE EXPENSES HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE. ALHAJI SHEHU IDRIS IS CONSIDERING TAKING A LEADING BUSINESSMAN WITH HIM TO FILL THIS ROLE AND TO ASSIST HIM IN EVALUATING WHAT HE OBSERVES. (IT IS RECOMMENDED BY THE POST THAT AN ESCORT WITH AFRICAN EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BE ASSIGNED). THE EMIR IS VERY KEEN ON VISITING U.S. AND SUCH A TRIP WOULD INCREASE HIS APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES AND AMERICAN CULTURE IN GENERAL, PARTICULARLY DURING THIS TIME WHEN THE NATION'S 200TH BIRTHDAY IS BEING CELEBRATED.

CULTURAL INTERESTS : NONE

PROFESSIONAL/BUSINESS INTERESTS: NONE

KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE : EXCELLENT

KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER LANGUAGES: HAUSE AND ARABIC

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LAGOS 02862 082240Z

PERSONAL CONTACTS : NONE

AVOCATIONAL INTERESTS & HOBBIES: FARMING AND OUTDOOR GAMES

WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK TO AMERICAN AUDIENCES: YES

SUGGESTED TOPIC: "NIGERIA'S FUTURE" AND "LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN NORTHERN NIGERIA".

EMERGENCY NAME & ADDRESS: C/O THE NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR
NIGERIAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AVAILABILITY DATE FOR US VISIT: MID-MAY OR EARLY JUNE, 1976

2. PLEASE ADVISE.

EASUM

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS02862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760087-1180
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760385/aaaacwtn.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LAGOS 1585, 76 STATE 37218
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 AUG 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : IV NOMINATION FOR TRADITIONAL RULER: IDRIS
TAGS: OEXC, NI, (IDRIS, ALHAJI SHEHU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006